

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /078 W

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P R 251119Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4659

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 3695

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: NA/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY, EG, US, IS

SUBJECT: SYRIAN REACTION TO SINAI AGREEMENT - SEPT. 21-22

1. SUMMARY: RENEWED ACTIVITY ON DOMESTIC FRONT APPEARS DESIGNED TO HIGHLIGHT WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR BAATH-LED OPPOSITION TO AGREEMENT AMONG ALL ELEMENTS OF SYRIAN POLITICAL SPECTRUM. END SUMMARY.

### 2. DOMESTIC

BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND RECEIVED MORE CABLES OF SUPPORT FROM SYRIAN AND OTHER ARAB ORGANIZATIONS.

DEMONSTRATIONS TOOK PLACE IN SUWEIDA AND DEIR AL-ZOR SEPT. 21.

DEPPRIMIN FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS HAYDAR ADDRESSED SUWEIDA DEMONSTRATORS AND TOLD THEM THAT EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN COORDINATION FIRST BROKE DOWN ON SECOND DAY OF OCT. WAR. CLAIMING THAT AGREEMENT TERMINATED MILITARY AND ECONOMIC BLOCKADE OF ISRAEL FOR RETURN

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OF ONLY TEN PER CENT OF SINAI, HAYDAR STATED, "I REJECT THE AGREE-

MENT AND CALL UPON SADAT TO ABROGATE IT." REGIONAL COMMAND MEMBER ABDULLAH AL-AHMAD ADDRESSED DEIR AL-ZOR MARCHERS AND CHARACTERIZED AGREEMENT AS "DEFEAT, SURRENDER AND STAB IN BACK OF ARAB CAUSE AND PALESTINIAN PEOPLE."

DEMONSTRATION PLANNED FOR DAMASCUS SEPT. 22 ANNOUNCED IN MORNING RADIO AND WEEK-LONG SCHEDULE OF DEMONSTRATIONS AROUND COUNTRY LISTED IN SEPT. 22 PRESS.

PEOPLE'S COUNCIL CALLED INTO EXTRAORDINARY SESSION EVENING SEPT. 22 "TO STUDY PRESENT CONDITION OF ARAB SITUATION AND DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS CREATED BY EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT AND ITS REFLECTION ON ARAB STRUGGLE."  
NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE FRONT, WHICH INCLUDES ALL PARTIES PERMITTED TO OPERATE LEGALLY WITHIN SYRIA, ISSUED STATEMENT BANNERED IN SEPT. 22 AL-BAATH WHICH CONDEMNED AGREEMENT FOR ACCEPTING ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF MOST OF SINAI AND PRESENCE OF AMERICAN TECHNICIANS.

### 3. FOREIGN

ASAD'S POLITICAL ADVISOR DR. DAOUDI DEPARTED FOR NORTH AFRICA SEPT. 21 TO DELIVER MESSAGES TO TUNISIAN, MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN LEADERS.

ALGERIAN RCC MEMBER YAHYAWI DEPARTED DAMASCUS SEPT. 21 AFTER MEETING WITH SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN LEADERS. HE AFFIRMED THAT "ALGERIA SUPPORTS SYRIA AND STANDS WITH IT IN ITS ACTIVITY AIMED AT CREATING REAL ARAB SOLIDARITY. WE ALSO STAND WITH PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND PALESTINIAN ARMED REVOLUTION."

KING HUSSEIN WILL ARRIVE DAMASCUS SEPT. 23 ACCOMPANIED BY PRIMIN RIFAI.

AL-BAATH REPORTED THAT ANNEXES OF SINAI AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED SEPT. 22 "AND THE AMERICANS WILL ENTER SINAI BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH." PRES. FORD QUOTED AS STATING THAT "WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE AGREEMENT, WE WILL SUPPLY PERSHING ROCKETS TO ISRAEL." SUPPLY OF PERSHING TO ISRAEL HAS REPORTEDLY CAUSED TENSION BETWEEN KISSINGER AND SCHLESINGER.

### 4. COMMENTARY

DR. RIF'AT AL-ASAD, BROTHER OF PRES., ADDRESSED LENGTHY MESSAGE TO SADAT RIDICULING EGYPTIAN LEADER FOR HIS "STAGE ACTS" AFTER DEATH OF NASSAR AND HIS SHIFT OF EGYPTIAN POLICY AWAY FROM DIRECTION INITIATED AFTER 1952 REVOLUTION. CLAIMING THAT "MUMMIES UNCLASSIFIED

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BEGINNING TO APPEAR FROM THEIR TOMBS," HE CRITICIZED SADAT FOR PURSUING "EGYPT FIRST" POLICY AND FOR SPURNING "WAR OF LIBERATION" TO FOLLOW INSTEAD "BATTLE OF METERS."  
DEFMIN TLAS IN SEPT. 21 AL-BAATH DISPARAGED AGREEMENT FOR "UPSETTING RESULTS OF OCT. WAR" AND FOR BEING "POLITICAL NOT MILITARY" DOCUMENT. HE ADDED THAT IT DIVIDED ARABS MILITARILY, PLEDGED EGYPT TO REFRAIN FROM USE OF FORCE, PERMITTED AMERICAN PRESENCE "WHICH WILL PREVENT EGYPTIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY BY

AMERICAN FORCE," AND LIFTED EMBARGO AT BAB AL-MANDEB AND SUEZ CANAL. EGYPTIAN COS FAHMI SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH "GREAT PAIN" WHILE GUR WAS "SMILING AND OVERJOYED" BECAUSE ISRAEL HAD GIVEN LITTLE TO EGYPTIANS BUT HAD GAINED PROMISE OF ENORMOUS AID FROM U.S.

PLO OFFICIAL MUHAMMAD NASHASHIBI IN INTERVIEW OPINED THAT EGYPTIAN ARMY AND POPULACE WOULD RESIST SETBACK TO ARAB SOLIDARITY AND ARAB-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP. PLO HAS REFUSED TO ACCEPT EGYPTIAN DEFEATIST POSITIONS, HE ADDED.

COLUMNISTS IN SEPT. 21-22 PRESS CRITICIZED AGREEMENT ON BASIS THAT IT POLITICAL RATHER THAN MILITARY DOCUMENT, THAT IT COMPLICATES RELATIONS OF GREAT POWERS WITH ME STATES AND THAT IT GIVES TOO MUCH TO ISRAEL IN RETURN FOR TOO LITTLE. PERSHING DEAL ANALYZED AS POSING MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT NUCLEAR FUTURE OF ME AND "AMERICAN-ZIONIST NUCLEAR DESIGNS."

5. COMMENT. INCREASED ACTIVITY ON DOMESTIC FRONT APPEARS DESIGNED TO COUNTER EGYPTIAN CHARGE THAT BAATH-LED OPPOSITION TO ACCORD DOES NOT ENJOY WIDESPREAD SUPPORT OF ALL ELEMENTS OF SYRIAN POPULACE AND POLITICAL SPECTRUM.  
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